

Craft Making: Receiving Christ's Invitation—A Missional Practice

Missional practices: cultivating new understandings, ways of being, and living Christ's mission.

Purpose: to be awake to Christ's invitation in a story of scripture from the four Gospels and as you do a craft, such as knitting, carpentry or gardening. Inviting People to Christ includes our increasing awareness of all the ways to slow down and see, hear, taste, feel, and experience the presence of the living Christ in the seemingly routine and ordinary experience of our daily lives. Christ's invitation is about being awoken to the reality of the living Christ expressed in so many ways – doing the dishes, knitting, wood carving or finishing furniture.

Steps:

1. Become aware of the presence of God and awake to Christ's invitation. Take a moment to be calm and centered.
2. Choose and read a text from the four Gospels in the spirit of prayer, seeking to be closer to the Living Christ.
3. While engaging in the use of your hands, value these moments as opportunities to “slow down” and being in harmony with God for God to guide you to new insights or feelings of well-being.
4. Consider exploring one or more of these questions:
 - How does this activity minister to you?
 - What is it about this activity or moment that awakens you to Christ's invitation?
5. Offer a prayer of gratitude.

Tips for the Process:

- Seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to draw closer to the Living Christ by remembering his ever being present and his invitation to share life with him.
- Do not rush—take time. There may be days when you follow each step. Other days, you may want to stay only with one or two steps.
- The key is simplicity and not being constrained by each step.
- Consider beginning your day with the Mission Prayer and then remembering it while doing an activity with your hands.